

our hands on is that a gallon of gas today is costing \$4.11. And the reason it's costing \$4.11 is because we are still completely dependent on foreign oil.

Now, while I know that there are a lot of people at home sitting around considering what their chances of getting bitten by a monkey might be or their care and real concern about a shark carcass, I think they're more concerned about a gallon of gas, the price of that.

So Mr. Speaker, I would encourage you to encourage the rest of the members of the majority party, those that are in control, to have a good discussion, a good debate on a piece of legislation that would allow drilling on our Outer Continental Shelf in the areas of the West that have shale oil, off the coast of Alaska, and ANWR where we know that there are billions of gallons of gas. And not only that, but we're fixing to be in a natural gas crisis.

Natural gas is about twice what it was, I believe, last year, and if that's the case, people are not going to be able to heat their homes. And so while we think that driving is expensive now with gas at \$4.11 a gallon, imagine having home heating oil or natural gas to heat your house for your family and your bill is going to be twice as high as it was. Well, Mr. Speaker, you won't even be able to drive to a warm place.

And so these are some concerns that we need to be talking about now. Not only are we into the immediate crisis of high prices of gas, but we're in the crisis to come of our home heating oil and natural gas.

So I hope that while we take these things serious about the carcasses of these sharks, chances of getting bit by a monkey, that we would consider our dependence on foreign oil and what we can do to become self-dependent. It's all of the above. It's going to take some conservation, but we cannot conserve our way out of this. It's going to take looking at new technologies for wind and for solar. But we cannot build enough solar panels nor enough windmills to supply this country with its energy needs.

We don't need to be doing away with our coal-fired plants because 85 percent of the power of this country, Mr. Speaker, comes from those coal-fired plants. We need to be looking at new exploration, new ways to increase the oil production of this country so that we might be more energy independent and not so dependent on the people around this world who are mainly and most of the time not our friends, Mr. Speaker.

So I hope you will take that message back—and I know you will—to the majority and hopefully we can bring forth some legislation that we can discuss and see if we can't get gas prices down for the American people.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just simply say to the gentleman that it is not only

the sharks in the sea who fear being de-finned, it is also the American people who are being fleeced at the pump by Big Oil. And further, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that during this summer as many Americans flock to the beach, they have a greater chance of being bitten by Big Oil than by a shark.

Also, Mr. Speaker, our colleague from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is attending to official business in his district today and is therefore unable to be here on the floor for this debate. I note, however, for the record his involvement in drafting and advancing this legislation in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5741, recognizing the urgency for the U.S. to maintain its leadership role in conserving sharks and the marine ecosystems of which they are apart.

First and foremost, I want to commend the chief sponsor and good friend, Ms. BORDALLO of Guam, for her initiative in introducing this important legislation. I also want to commend Chairman RAHALL and other members of the Committee on Natural Resources for their strong support of this bipartisan legislation.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, I want to personally commend my good friend, Chairwoman BORDALLO, for her tireless work on the many issues affecting our oceans. This legislation in particular is an example of the efforts by the subcommittee and the Congress in promoting and preserving our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the increased amount of shark finning in the recent decades has taken a devastating toll on our efforts in conserving sharks and the marine ecosystems in which they are apart. The removal of shark fins and dumping of the carcasses at sea is being fueled by the shark-fin trade, which in turn is being driven by the rapid economic growth in Asia. It is our responsibility to further the prohibition of shark finning in order to preserve the conservation of sharks and their corresponding ecosystems. We have already taken steps in alleviating this problem when Congress enacted the Shark Finning Prohibition of 2000, prohibiting U.S. fishermen from removing the fins of sharks and discarding the carcasses at sea, and from landing or transporting shark fins without the corresponding carcasses.

In April, Chairwoman BORDALLO introduced this legislation which includes specific measures that will strengthen the implementation and enforcement of the shark finning prohibition. The bill clarifies that all vessels, not just fishing vessels, are prohibited from having custody, control, or possession of shark fins without the corresponding carcass, thereby eliminating the unexpected loophole related to the transport of shark fins. This legislation removes the 5 percent "fin to carcass" ratio, by requiring that fishermen land all sharks with fins naturally attached which can later be easily removed after such inspection, making it easier for authorities to determine whether a given set of fins belonged to a particular dressed carcass.

Finally, this bill amends the High Seas Driftnet Moratorium Protection Act to allow the Secretary of Commerce to identify and list nations that have not adopted a regulatory program for the conservation of sharks similar to the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, it is necessary that we pass this legislation immediately given the damage that is constantly affecting our national marine ecosystems by the removal of sharks who have an integral part in sustaining life in these ecosystems.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5741. Again, I thank my colleagues for their support of this important bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5741, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRESERVE AMERICA AND SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3981) to authorize the Preserve America Program and Save America's Treasures Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3981

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Purpose.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Establishment.

Sec. 104. Designation of Preserve America Communities.

Sec. 105. Regulations.

Sec. 106. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Purpose.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Establishment.

Sec. 204. Regulations.

Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Prohibition on funding certain activities.

TITLE I—PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM

SEC. 101. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to authorize the Preserve America Program, including—

(1) the Preserve America grant program within the Department of the Interior;

(2) the recognition programs administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and

(3) the related efforts of Federal agencies, working in partnership with State, tribal, and local governments and the private sector, to support and promote the preservation of historic resources.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

(2) **HERITAGE TOURISM.**—The term “heritage tourism” means the conduct of activities to attract and accommodate visitors to a site or area based on the unique or special aspects of the history, landscape (including trail systems), and culture of the site or area.

(3) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means the Preserve America Program established under section 103(a).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 103. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Department of the Interior the Preserve America Program, under which the Secretary, in partnership with the Council, may provide competitive grants to States, local governments (including local governments in the process of applying for designation as Preserve America Communities under section 104), Indian tribes, communities designated as Preserve America Communities under section 104, State historic preservation offices, and tribal historic preservation offices to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation planning activities.

(b) **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The following projects shall be eligible for a grant under this title:

(A) A project for the conduct of—
(i) research on, and documentation of, the history of a community; and
(ii) surveys of the historic resources of a community.

(B) An education and interpretation project that conveys the history of a community or site.

(C) A planning project (other than building rehabilitation) that advances economic development using heritage tourism and historic preservation.

(D) A training project that provides opportunities for professional development in areas that would aid a community in using and promoting its historic resources.

(E) A project to support heritage tourism in a Preserve America Community designated under section 104.

(F) Other nonconstruction projects that identify or promote historic properties or provide for the education of the public about historic properties that are consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—In providing grants under this title, the Secretary shall only provide 1 grant to each eligible project selected for a grant.

(c) **PREFERENCE.**—In providing grants under this title, the Secretary may give preference to projects that carry out the purposes of both the program and the Save America’s Treasures Program.

(d) **CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION.**—

(1) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Council in preparing the list of projects to be provided grants for a fiscal year under the program.

(2) **NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary provides grants for a fiscal year under the program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a list of any eligible projects that are to be provided grants under the program for the fiscal year.

(e) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out a project provided a grant under this title shall be not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

(2) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share required under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of—

(A) cash; or
(B) donated supplies and related services, the value of which shall be determined by the Secretary.

(3) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each applicant for a grant has the capacity to secure, and a feasible plan for securing, the non-Federal share for an eligible project required under paragraph (1) before a grant is provided to the eligible project under the program.

SEC. 104. DESIGNATION OF PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITIES.

(a) **APPLICATION.**—To be considered for designation as a Preserve America Community, a community, tribal area, or neighborhood shall submit to the Council an application containing such information as the Council may require.

(b) **CRITERIA.**—To be designated as a Preserve America Community under the program, a community, tribal area, or neighborhood that submits an application under subsection (a) shall, as determined by the Council, in consultation with the Secretary, meet criteria required by the Council and, in addition, consider—

(1) protection and celebration of the heritage of the community, tribal area, or neighborhood;
(2) use of the historic assets of the community, tribal area, or neighborhood for economic development and community revitalization; and
(3) encouragement of people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

(c) **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES.**—The Council shall establish an expedited process for Preserve America Community designation for local governments previously certified for historic preservation activities under section 101(c)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470a(c)(1)).

(d) **GUIDELINES.**—The Council, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish any guidelines that are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 105. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary shall develop any guidelines and issue any regulations that the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, to remain available until expended.

TITLE II—SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES PROGRAM

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to authorize within the Department of the Interior the Save America’s Treasures Program, to be carried out by the Director of the National Park Service, in partnership with—

(1) the National Endowment for the Arts;
(2) the National Endowment for the Humanities;
(3) the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
(4) the National Trust for Historic Preservation;
(5) the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers;
(6) the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and
(7) the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COLLECTION.**—The term “collection” means a collection of intellectual and cultural

artifacts, including documents, sculpture, and works of art.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means a Federal entity, State, local, or tribal government, educational institution, or non-profit organization.

(3) **HISTORIC PROPERTY.**—The term “historic property” has the meaning given the term in section 301 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470w).

(4) **NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT.**—The term “nationally significant” means a collection or historic property that meets the applicable criteria for national significance, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to section 101(a)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470a(a)(2)).

(5) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means the Save America’s Treasures Program established under section 203(a).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Department of the Interior the Save America’s Treasures program, under which the amounts made available to the Secretary under section 205 shall be used by the Secretary, in consultation with the organizations described in section 201, subject to subsection (f)(1)(B), to provide grants to eligible entities for projects to preserve nationally significant collections and historic properties.

(b) **DETERMINATION OF GRANTS.**—Of the amounts made available for grants under section 205, not less than 50 percent shall be made available for grants for projects to preserve collections and historic properties, to be distributed through a competitive grant process administered by the Secretary, subject to the eligibility criteria established under subsection (e).

(c) **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS.**—To be considered for a competitive grant under the program an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) **COLLECTIONS AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A collection or historic property shall be provided a competitive grant under the program only if the Secretary determines that the collection or historic property is—

(A) nationally significant; and
(B) threatened or endangered.

(2) **ELIGIBLE COLLECTIONS.**—A determination by the Secretary regarding the national significance of collections under paragraph (1)(A) shall be made in consultation with the organizations described in section 201, as appropriate.

(3) **ELIGIBLE HISTORIC PROPERTIES.**—To be eligible for a competitive grant under the program, a historic property shall, as of the date of the grant application—

(A) be listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance; or

(B) be designated as a National Historic Landmark.

(e) **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall not provide a grant under this title to a project for an eligible collection or historic property unless the project—

(A) eliminates or substantially mitigates the threat of destruction or deterioration of the eligible collection or historic property;

(B) has a clear public benefit; and

(C) is able to be completed on schedule and within the budget described in the grant application.

(2) **PREFERENCE.**—In providing grants under this title, the Secretary may give preference to projects that carry out the purposes of both the program and the Preserve America Program.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—In providing grants under this title, the Secretary shall only provide 1

grant to each eligible project selected for a grant.

(f) CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall consult with the organizations described in section 201 in preparing the list of projects to be provided grants for a fiscal year by the Secretary under the program.

(B) LIMITATION.—If an entity described in subparagraph (A) has submitted an application for a grant under the program, the entity shall be recused by the Secretary from the consultation requirements under that subparagraph and subsection (a).

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary provides grants for a fiscal year under the program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a list of any eligible projects that are to be provided grants under the program for the fiscal year.

(g) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out a project provided a grant under this title shall be not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

(2) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share required under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of—

(A) cash; or

(B) donated supplies or related services, the value of which shall be determined by the Secretary.

(3) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that each applicant for a grant has the capacity and a feasible plan for securing the non-Federal share for an eligible project required under paragraph (1) before a grant is provided to the eligible project under the program.

SEC. 204. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary shall develop any guidelines and issue any regulations that the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$50,000,000 for each fiscal year, to remain available until expended.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.

None of the funds provided pursuant to this Act may be used to study or establish a National Heritage Area or fund a National Heritage Area management entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, both the Preserve America and the Save America's Treasures Programs provide Federal matching grants for important historic preservation projects. Preserve America provides grants for interpreta-

tion and education regarding historic resources, while the Save America's Treasures Program provides grants for rehabilitation in restoration work.

Both programs, Mr. Speaker, are enormously successful because they leverage limited Federal dollars for much larger State, local, and private investment in preserving and interpreting our history and our heritage. These programs were created by executive order, and this legislation simply provides statutory authorization for both of these programs. H.R. 3981 is a top priority for the Bush administration.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Preserve America has been an administration initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve cultural and natural heritage. Preserve America communities in Virginia's First Congressional District include Prince William County, Spotsylvania County, and Williamsburg, Virginia.

The Save America's Treasures Program provides grants preserving certain historic sites and collections including Kenmore Mansion in Fredericksburg and the restoration of the original military campaign tents used by George Washington that are now currently on display at the Colonial National Historic Park in Yorktown, Virginia.

I would like to acknowledge the positive contributions that have been made to responsible preservation, particularly by Mr. TURNER of Ohio who has long promoted property rights as a key component of these programs. Mr. TURNER's contribution to this legislation has brought us to where we are today by ensuring the constitutional rights of private property owners while promoting historic and cultural preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER), the bill's sponsor.

□ 1430

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act, which will, as the two speakers already have said, authorize two programs that are critical to the future of America's historic preservation efforts.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG of the Natural Resources Committee, as well as Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, for their work in shepherding this legislation, as well as the historic preservation community for their support for this bill.

The Save America's Treasures Program was started as part of the White

House Millennium Council chaired by then-First Lady Hillary Clinton. The program has provided much-needed bricks and mortar support and has succeeded beyond anyone's expectations, funding America's most threatened cultural treasures for almost 10 years.

The current administration, under the leadership of First Lady Laura Bush, created the Preserve America Program to support community preservation efforts by providing funding for heritage tourism and preservation planning.

The two programs serve different purposes, and together, they provide a comprehensive approach to preservation and community revitalization.

Mr. MIKE TURNER and I announced the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act in the Sewall-Belmont House, just a couple of blocks from here. The Sewall-Belmont House was designated a national historic landmark for its significance in American history. It was the headquarters for the National Woman's Party, led by Alice Paul, and their movement to secure women the right to vote.

Despite that obvious historical significance, it was not long ago that the Sewall-Belmont House was threatened by a leaking roof and by significant other structural damage. The Sewall-Belmont House was the first building to receive funding as a Save America's Treasures project.

In my own district, Save America's Treasures funding has helped preserve the F.W. Woolworth Building in downtown Greensboro. Mr. Speaker, as you know well, on February 1, 1960, four African American students from North Carolina A&T University sat down at the "white only" lunch counter and refused to move until they were treated the same as the white customers.

Within 2 months, the sit-ins at Woolworth's inspired similar demonstrations throughout the South involving thousands of protesters. The sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter was the moment when the civil rights struggle in this country became a mass movement.

The Woolworth Building and its lunch counter are sacred grounds of the civil rights movement and must be preserved for future generations.

The Preserve America Program has designated more than 500 neighborhoods, cities, and towns throughout the United States as Preserve America Communities and has awarded grants since 2006. Earlier this year, the Department of the Interior made its first round of 2008 grants of \$2.9 million to 43 projects in 25 States. This September they will award an additional \$4.3 million in grants. The projects support heritage tourism, the commercial revitalization of neglected downtowns, and the reuse of historic properties.

Mr. Speaker, America's historic places remind us of who we are. They remind us of our history. We cannot cheat our children of that connection with their past, that understanding of who they are.

The Preserve America Program, through its grant opportunities and community designations, ensures that important communities and neighborhoods will survive for future generations.

Historic preservation helps revitalize cities, towns, and rural areas nationwide where dramatic population shifts, outdated planning, and the loss of manufacturing jobs have made market-driven reinvestment impossible without some assistance.

Rehabilitation of vacant and underused historic structures can attract new investment in growing communities. Whether it is preserving main streets of downtowns, or reusing historic properties as affordable housing, preservation makes history come alive in communities throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is now considering these two successful programs. Through passing this bill and authorizing these programs, Congress can affirm our commitment to saving our natural heritage, our historic heritage, and revitalizing our communities.

Once again, I ask my colleagues for their support for the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, today I speak in favor of H.R. 3981, the Save America's Treasures/Preserve America Authorization Act of 2008.

I want to thank Representative MILLER, the co-chair of the Historic Preservation Caucus, for his collaboration on this bill, as well as Senator DOMENICI and Senator CLINTON for their work in moving this bill forward in the Senate.

I also want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG of the House Natural Resources Committee, as well as Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for their work on this bill.

Finally, I want to commend the work of the national historic preservation advocacy groups, many of which have collaborated with our offices in crafting this bill.

To this date, the Save America's Treasures and Preserve America Programs have been authorized through executive order, and I want to point out that through both First Lady Laura Bush's and former First Lady Hillary Clinton's efforts and commitment to historic preservation, these programs have been a success for many local communities.

H.R. 3981 would ensure that these two important programs continue by codifying them into law.

Both the Save America's Treasures and Preserve America Programs have had an enormous impact on historic

preservation nationally, as well as in Ohio. Ohio is home to nine Preserve America communities, Dayton, my hometown, being one. In fact, Dayton recently received a Preserve America Grant that will help analyze heritage tourism in the area.

Additionally, since 1999, Ohio has been the home of 45 Save America's Treasures Projects. These projects total nearly \$11 million in funding toward bricks and mortar restoration of important Ohio historic assets such as the Paul Lawrence Dunbar House in Dayton; Cincinnati's Union Terminal; the Wright Flyer III in Dayton, Ohio; the Palace Theatre in Columbus; and last, but not least, The National First Ladies Library in Canton, Ohio.

It's certainly interesting to note that the First Ladies Library was a recipient of the two programs started by these two First Ladies.

H.R. 3981 will ensure a stable and continuous funding source is authorized to assist in funding these important projects.

Additionally, the bill ensures that public-private partnerships remain a key aspect to the preservation of important historic assets by requiring non-Federal funds be used in collaboration with these Federal grants.

The authorization of these programs will help highlight the importance of historic preservation as an economic development tool, as well as a core national value.

It is clear that saving our heritage in these buildings and neighborhoods is not just a way to pay homage to our past. It is also an important way to boost our economy in the present, in addition to the future.

This bill enjoys a broad range of support, including many historic preservation organizations and over 55 cosponsors in the House.

Again, I want to thank Congressman MILLER for being the lead sponsor of this legislation, as well as the leadership of the Resources Committee for ushering this bill through the committee process.

This bill is also important because many of the recipients are organizations that are staffed by volunteers. These programs recognize their efforts to preserve the fabric of their community and help tell the story of our Nation's heritage. These programs work.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

JULY 7, 2008.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. DON YOUNG,
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL AND RANKING MEMBER YOUNG: We are writing as representatives of the national preservation community in support of H.R. 3981, a bill that would authorize both the Preserve America (PA) and Save America's Treasures (SAT) programs. Our organizations support this measure and we are grateful to Reps. Miller and Turner for their initiative in authoring this

legislation, as well as their leadership as co-chairs of the House Historic Preservation Caucus. We hope that Congress will pass H.R. 3981, legislation which is critical to the historic preservation community.

Despite all of their success and support, the PA and SAT programs are unauthorized and funded from year-to-year through the annual appropriations process. We would like to see Congress authorize SAT and PA with a long-term programmatic and funding vision that would enable both programs to work in harmony with the other components of the national historic preservation program. Authorization would codify the successful implementation and practices of the ten-year old SAT program along with its newer partner, Preserve America, led by First Ladies Clinton and Bush respectively. While each of these historic preservation initiatives apply to projects of a different nature—SAT for “bricks and mortar” preservation and PA for heritage education and outreach, it is important that they should be authorized and mutually supportive of each other to maximize federal resources and goals in saving the nation's historic assets. We already know that PA and SAT are working together at specific locations throughout the country.

While much has been achieved since SAT was established, the need remains great and we must look to future needs. In just the first eight years of the program, 2,702 grant applications were received, representing requests for more than \$1.17 billion in critical preservation assistance. SAT has provided more than \$264 million in federal challenge grants to 1,024 historic preservation projects through 2007. These funds have helped bring new life to irreplaceable historic treasures—including buildings, documents and works of art—in every state. SAT funds have made a huge difference, but without Congress' ongoing commitment to the program, it would be virtually impossible to stimulate the required dollar-for-dollar non-federal matching contributions and hard to imagine where else the money would come from to preserve our national heritage.

That same ongoing need applies to PA projects as well with grants to support community efforts that demonstrate sustainable uses of historic and cultural sites, and the economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism. The first round of Preserve America Grants in 2007 provided 43 applicants with a total of \$2.6 million distributed across the nation. The second round provided \$2.26 million to 29 recipients in 20 states. The importance of resources to support this effort has not diminished since then—in fact, it has grown.

SAT and PA reflect the bipartisan and bicameral commitment that has characterized historic preservation policy in Congress and the White House over the years. SAT was created during a Democratic administration and embraced by the Bush Administration and Congressional Republicans. Likewise, PA was created during a Republican administration and is now supported by Members on both sides of the aisle. This is the strongest signal that authorizing both programs makes sense when bipartisanship is sometimes an elusive quality. We urge you to pass this timely authorization.

Sincerely,

RICHARD MOE,
President,
National Trust for Historic Preservation.
HEATHER MACINTOSH,
President,
Preservation Action.
MIKE POLK,
President,
American Cultural Resources Association.

LU ANN DE CUNZO,
President,
*Society for Historical
Archeology.*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we're talking about preserving America, but we need to preserve the economic viability of America, and as long as we're paying \$4.10 a gallon, we're not going to be an economically viable Nation. It's going higher and higher.

In the last bill's debate, we talked about monkey bites, shark bites, and there was an accusation of the energy production companies are biting people. But what's biting people in their pocketbooks and their wallets is this high cost of gasoline, high cost of energy.

Until we start dealing with this issue, we're going to continue to have problems in this country. We're going to continue to have economic problems, and it's absolutely critical that we deal with what's on America's mind, and that is energy costs.

As we head into the fall and winter, not too far off, people are going to have a hard time heating their homes. Poor people and retirees are going to have a hard time buying the heating oil.

The problem is the shortage of energy supplies here in America, and until we start making energy supplies more available to the American public, we're going to continue to have higher and higher costs.

We can't just talk about conservation. We can't just talk about solar and wind. We've got to talk about those things certainly, but that's only a minute part of the answer. We've got to develop nuclear energy.

Just below my district, Plant Vogel in Georgia is having a hard time getting permitting for two nuclear reactors. They're being blocked by the radical environmentalists and through the inane permitting process that's going on today. We need to get those reactors online. We need to get oil, coal, gas, propane, all more available so that people can have an economic future that makes sense.

So, as we talk about preserving things, let's preserve our families. Let's preserve our pocketbooks. Let's have money to spend to create a stronger economy. Not focus on these other things, as important as some feel that they may be. But the most important thing to America today is energy and the high cost of energy.

We need to do something about that. We shouldn't go home until we solve the energy problem of America, and we're not doing the American public justice when we continue talking about all these other things except energy. We need to focus on energy. Let's drill for oil. Let's drill now.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have been on this floor for weeks watching our colleagues from across the aisle defend multinational oil conglomerates. The fact of the matter is that the energy challenges that our Nation faces demand more than rhetoric and battles on the floor of the House. Certainly, our constituents who are feeling the energy pinch deserve more.

We need to put our energies into finding common ground to achieve real, workable solutions to our energy problems, and toward that end, we need to be working on our energy challenge from two ends at the same time, furthermore, the supply end and the conservation end. By doing so, we can work without partisanship to bring relief to the American people. And that, just like the underlying bill, would preserve America's true treasures and the treasures are our people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Guam and her comments about bipartisan and working together and coming up with a common solution.

Mr. Speaker, I am all for that, but what we've come up with in the past is very limited debate. We've had bills come to the floor with no amendments. We've had bills come to this floor that had no committee hearings. Now, that, to me, is not working together or with bipartisan support.

So, if we want to have this bipartisan discussion, let's have it on the floor. Let's have an open rule on an energy bill, an open rule energy bill. What a great way to preserve what this body was meant to be, a place where representatives of the people came to debate and discuss and to talk about things that were affecting their constituents.

But half the people in America who are represented by Republicans in this body have not had an opportunity to even offer an amendment to some of these energy bills. We've not even had an opportunity to come down and speak on this floor because of the limited debate.

If we want to work out a solution, if we want to hear all the ideas from all 435 Members of this, so all the people in this country can have some input into this process, let's have an open energy bill that went through regular order and went through the subcommittee and the committee process, had a rule that was written where we could all have some input.

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I'm for that kind of bipartisan support, and I know you are too because you are a very sweet lady.

Now, let me go on to say one thing: There was a poll that came out today I

thought was very interesting. The percentage of voters who give Congress good or excellent ratings has fallen to single digits for the first time in Rasmussen reporting tracking history.

This month, just 9 percent say Congress is doing a good or excellent job. Mr. Speaker, I think we need to form a committee to go find that 9 percent of the people to find out where they've been because we are not doing a good job, we are not doing an excellent job. We are doing a very poor job of addressing the needs of the American people and what's affecting their pocketbook and the ability for their family to survive today.

We've got gasoline that is up \$1.76 a gallon since the end of 2006. A loaf of bread is up 23 cents, or about 23 percent, than what it was at the end of 2006. A gallon of milk is up almost 30 percent, Mr. Speaker, since the new majority came in. The Dow Jones has lost about 20 percent. The stock market is down \$53 billion in the wealth of the stock market. Real net worth is down \$2.51 trillion. The real per capita gross domestic product is down. Inflation rate is up. Unemployment rate is up. The real average wage is down, Mr. Speaker. We are not doing a good job.

Part of the reason that bread is high, that milk is high, that the stock market is going down, that inflation is up is because of the oil crisis that we're in right now because we are totally dependent on foreign oil. And I would like to close with this, as a quote from the Department of Minerals Management Service that's in the Interior Department. The director says, "The agency estimates that offshore drilling could produce 1.8 billion barrels of oil and 76 trillion cubic feet of natural gas." And we're going to need that natural gas, Mr. Speaker, when these home heating oil and natural gas bills come due for people trying to stay warm this winter. The director would not say how much more oil and gas he thinks the lands could produce, but he said that experience has shown that once companies begin drilling on land, they often find more than expected.

Mr. Speaker, we have about 2.5 billion acres of Federal land and offshore that we could be drilling on; 68 million of that has leases that oil companies have leased. And we certainly—and I say we, I'm talking about the minority—do not think that Big Oil does not play some part in this. But the reality of it is we cannot expect Big Oil to go out and drill on leased land that has no oil or no gas. You do not go grocery shopping at a hardware store.

We need to open up this land that is available, that the Department of Interior, that the Minerals and Management Service says that there is gas and oil there. We need to open up this land to let people drill on, to let people get our natural resources out of the ground rather than us being dependent on going to foreign countries on bended knee with hat in hand asking them to sell us their natural resources when we refuse to use our own.

So Mr. Speaker, I will close with this, that we do want to work. We want a bipartisan solution. Because we think the answer is that all of the above, it's more conservation, it's more use of wind and solar, but it's also drilling. It's also using our own natural resources. It's using clean coal. It's using an environmentally sensitive way to get this natural resource out of the ground. And we welcome an open rule bill that comes to the floor that all 435 people and the seven delegates that represent people in our territories and our States in this great country that we live in, to come have an open, honest debate about what we can do to solve our energy policy, to come together, to work together. That's the kind of change that the American people want, not the radical kind of change that has been offered so far in this Congress.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman keeps talking about opening up more land. Well, the fact is 80 percent of the oil available on the Outer Continental Shelf today is already open for leasing, but the oil companies haven't decided it's worth their money to drill there.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this worthwhile bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3981, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DOROTHY BUELL MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER LEASE ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1423) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease a portion of a visitor center to be constructed outside the boundary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter County, Indiana, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1423

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DOROTHY BUELL MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center Partnership Act".

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission. The memorandum of understanding shall—

(1) identify the overall goals and purpose of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center;

(2) establish how management and operational duties will be shared;

(3) determine how exhibits, Signs, and other information are developed;

(4) indicate how various activities will be funded;

(5) identify who is responsible for providing site amenities;

(6) establish procedures for changing or dissolving the joint partnership; and

(7) address any other issues deemed necessary by the Secretary or the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF EXHIBITS.—The Secretary may plan, design, construct, and install exhibits in the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center related to the use and management of the resources at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500,000.

(d) NATIONAL LAKESHORE PRESENCE.—The Secretary may use park staff from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center to provide visitor information and education.

SEC. 2. INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE.

Section 19 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes" (16 U.S.C. 460u-19) is amended—

(1) by striking "After notifying" and inserting "(a) After notifying"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) CONTIGUOUS CLARIFIED.—For purposes of subsection (a), lands may be considered contiguous to other lands if the lands touch the other lands, or are separated from the other lands by only a public or private right-of-way, such as a road, railroad, or utility corridor."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1423 would allow the National Park Service to share visitor center facilities for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with the Porter County Indiana Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission.

The bill also allows the National Park Service to construct exhibits at the visitor center and authorizes National Park Service employees to work

there. Congress must approve the spending and the use of personnel because the visitor center lies outside the established boundaries of the park.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1423 would clarify the definition of "contiguous lands" in the park's original legislation so that the National Park Service could accept donations of contiguous land even if that land is separated by a right-of-way such as a road, a railway line or utility corridor.

I commend the sponsor, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISLOSKEY), for his work on the legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, on the southern tip of Lake Michigan, is comprised of 15,000 acres along 15 miles of shoreline. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Interior to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Porter County Commission to lease space for the use of a visitor center. It also permits the Secretary to accept donations of lands that are located along the borders of the lakeshore but are separated by a right-of-way.

And today, as we are dealing with this particular unit of the National Park Service, I think it's fitting to remember that our constituents are dealing with high gasoline prices that are cutting into family vacations this summer, making it increasingly costly to visit our national parks.

Over the Independence Day work period back in my district, I spoke with a number of constituents who are still frustrated about high gasoline prices and also are frustrated with what they perceive as Congress' failure to do anything to adopt a comprehensive energy policy. This Congress needs to take action to put all of our available resources and technologies on the table, including increase American-made energy, conservation and efficiency to bring relief at the pumps.

I thought the best story that I heard was a lady that came to me and I asked her, I said, what do you think we ought to be doing about this energy issue that we're dealing with? And she said, Mr. WITTMAN, do you remember the movie Apollo 13? And I said, yes, I did. And she said, do you remember the scene there where the oxygen tank on the outside of the service capsule blew up and the engineers there had to figure out how they were going to get those astronauts back to Earth? So they moved the astronauts into the command module, but the problem with the command module is it didn't have enough capacity to take CO₂ out of the air, so eventually the astronauts would be asphyxiated if they didn't come up with a solution to that problem and still have enough oxygen to propel the spaceship back to Earth.

So what did they do? They sent the engineers to the duplicate capsule they